

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>
SUBJECT	Army Training and Maneuvers	DATE DISTR.	2 June 1953
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		REFERENCES	

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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SOURCE:

1.

2. The whole area I have indicated Annex A was used by paratroops, armored artillery, and infantry units. These units rotated in the use of the training area and there was no combined arms training. I found out from friends that all civilians had been evacuated from the maneuver area and it was used throughout the year for training of the various units. According to hearsay, the troops lived in tent camps and abandoned houses in the village. The area was very hot in the daytime and very cold at night. The terrain was hilly and wooded, and very dry. Water for the troops had to be hauled by trainers from a considerable distance (I do not know the source of the water). Troops in the evacuated villages had electricity while those in tents had to use candles.

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25X1X. [redacted] unit participated in platoon, company, and battalion level tactics. There was a battalion level maneuver at the end of September, consisting of an attack with live ammunition against an imaginary enemy. A few old German machine guns did not stop firing when they should have and a few casualties resulted.

25X1X [redacted] one battalion level night exercise in a total blackout, but no ammunition was used during the problem. I do not know what type of problem it was. [redacted] I did not participate in or see maneuvers on a divisional level, or combined infantry-armor-artillery maneuvers. I saw no Satellite or Soviet troops and did not observe Soviet supervision during the maneuvers.

4. I learned of another possible training area from the following incident. On or about 15 July 1951, 500 officers and EM of the PS, 800 army officers and EM, 300 StB men, and about 500 SNB men from units in Pilsen and surrounding areas were summoned to the area near Mt. Praha [Annex. B, Point #17] to trap saboteurs who attempted to destroy a radar station located on top of the mountain. [redacted] 25X1X

25X1X Brigadier General Miroslav SMOLDAS, Chief of Staff of the PS, was in charge. [redacted]

25X1X [redacted] Annex. B, Point #27. The action consisted of encircling the large wooded area [Annex. B, Point #37] and gradually tightening the ring around the radar station. The action lasted 12 days but no saboteurs were captured. The radar station was not damaged by the saboteurs although there was an exchange of shots between them and the sentries guarding the radar station. [redacted]

25X1X [redacted]

25X1X It was surrounded by a barbed wire fence three meters high. [redacted] I did not see any buildings, antennas, or towers inside the compound. The station was very well guarded. Searchlights were mounted on trees near the enclosure. I saw many women in Czech Army and Air Force uniforms come out of the compound and assumed that they were radio and telephone operators. During the search, I noticed that a certain area [Annex. B, Point #47] was blocked off and was off limits to all civilians. I assumed that the area was used for training. It was near a bridge [Annex. B, Point #57] that spanned a lake. The area was uninhabited and was an ideal place of concealment for saboteurs, as the woods were dense and there were caves in the mountains. I heard that at the end of 1945 an SS unit hid in the area and was never found by searching Czech troops. 25X1A

5. I also knew of an army training area near Zelezna Ruda in the direction of Hartmanice [4910N-1328E] [Annex A, [redacted]]. The area was blocked off and the only civilians admitted were those with valid passes. [redacted] 25X1X

25X1X [redacted] I noticed that since the Spring of 1952 new highways, barracks, and huts had been constructed and many more were being built. While I could not linger and observe details I noticed much activity. Many tents were set up and target ranges, mock-up villages, etc., were being built in the woods. I heard that troops were to be in the area throughout the year. I also heard that the troops stationed there in June 1952 were all from the Susice division (cover #7000). The terrain was hilly and wooded, with large fields scattered throughout the area. I have no information on the power or water supply. In June 1952 a Slovak was stopped in the area and questioned; he had no pass and claimed to have lost his way. He was searched and maps and telephone lists were found on him. After eight days of interrogation [redacted] 25X1X

25X1X [redacted], the Slovak admitted he was an agent of the West; he was sent to Prague for further investigation.

Annexes : A. Training Area for Czech Troops near Libava
B. Location of Radar Station near Pribram

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Annex A

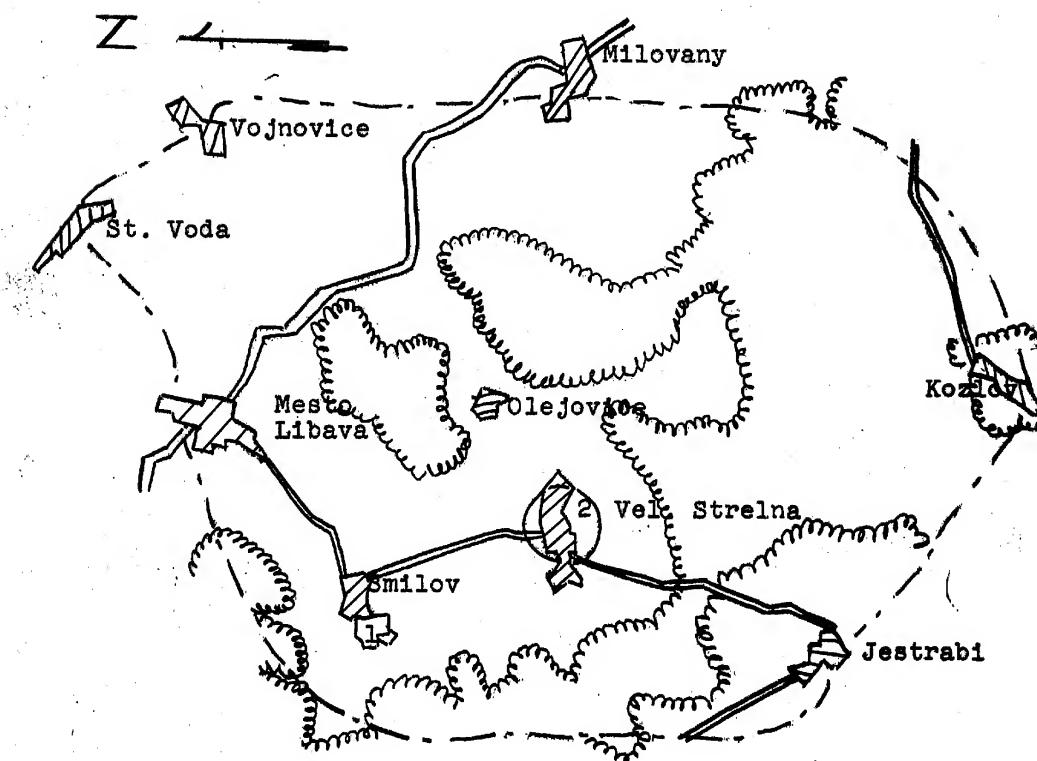
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Training Area for Czech Troops near Libava

4940N
1740E



4940N

Legend
 1. MG target range
 2. Attack area with
 automatic targets

1725E

Map Ref: Sheet U-12
 AMS M671 (GSGS 4416)
 1944 revised to 1951
 1:100,000

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Location of Radar Station near Pribram

Legend:

1. Radar station
2. Village of Kecha
3. Wooded area
4. Restricted troop training area
5. Bridge near restricted area

Map Ref:
Sheets 4151-4152
69994060
War Office 1941
1:150,000

